

### WILLIAM PROCTER, 1872-1951

William Procter died at Palm Beach, Florida on April 19, 1951. He was the grandson of a founder of the firm Procter and Gamble. According to S. J. Woolf, his grandfather borrowed one thousand pounds from Sir John Lubbock and came to this country to seek his fortune. He began as a candle maker, then switched to the manufacture of soap in a partnership with his brother-in-law, named Gamble. By the time William Procter was born at Cincinnati, on September 8, 1872, the loan had been repaid and the business was highly successful.

After graduating from Phillips Exeter, William Procter majored in chemistry as an undergraduate at Yale, obtaining his Ph.B. in the Sheffield Scientific School in 1894. Following this he spent three years in Europe with a year in the laboratory at the Sorbonne. For the next twenty-five years he was in the investment business and specialized in railroad securities. He organized the firm Procter and Borden in 1902, retiring from it in 1920. However, he still continued his business interest as a director in Procter and Gamble and was a regular attendant at board meetings. During his boyhood summers at Newtown, Connecticut, he became interested in biology, especially insects, and at the age of forty-five he enrolled as a graduate student in the department of zoology at Columbia University, where he studied from 1916 to 1920. At this time he was elected to Sigma Xi. A few years later he founded the Biological Survey of the Mount Desert Region, Inc., of which he was the director and president from 1928 on.

The New England Society of Natural History in connection with its work on the fauna of New England selected, in 1918, Mt. Desert Island as a place for part of its summer work, and Charles W. Johnson the curator and well-known dipterist spent ten days to two weeks collecting on the island each summer until 1926. Part I of the Survey was the result of their joint efforts, and it was devoted to the insect fauna. Parts II, III, IV and V were devoted to the marine fauna, etc. Part VI was a revision of Part I, and Part VII, which I think was the last to appear, was a

revision of Parts I and VI with the addition of one thousand one hundred species. It is entitled "Biological Survey of the Mount Desert Region, Inc., Part VII, The Insect Fauna" by William Procter. It was published by The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, Philadelphia, 1946, and was privately printed and financed by Dr. Procter as were all his surveys of the Mt. Desert region. These faunal lists go far beyond being mere catalogues of names.

In 1936 the University of Montreal conferred the degree Sc.D. upon him. From 1928 to 1936 he was research associate of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. From 1929 to 1936 he was on the board of managers of the Wistar Institute. He was also connected with the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, England. In addition he served, from 1931 to 1951, as a trustee of the American Museum of Natural History, and as a member of the advisory board of the department of zoology of Columbia University. He belonged to the AAAS, the Entomological Society of America (of which he was a fellow), the Ornithological Union, The Scientific Research Society, the New York Entomological Society, the Brooklyn Entomological Society, the Southern California Academy of Science, the Royal Academy of Science of Canada, and the London Ray Society.

He was particularly interested in Sigma Xi and the recently organized Scientific Research Society of America. According to Dr. Donald B. Prentice, director of the latter, Dr. Procter's generous annual contributions to Resa permitted its establishment without financial assistance from Sigma Xi. His will provides generous bequests to both societies. In 1950 Dr. Procter established the William Procter Prize for Scientific Achievement. The first award of \$1,000 was made to Dr. Karl T. Compton at Cleveland in December, 1950. Resa administers the award and provision was made by Dr. Procter for its continuance. During his lifetime Dr. Procter often made donations in support of other scientific endeavors. He designed the laboratory at the Wistar Biological Farm near Philadelphia in which the temperature is kept uniform throughout the year by the circulation of spring water around the walls.

Of late he spent his summers at Bar Harbor, Mount Desert

Island, Maine, and his winters at Florida. His wife's death preceded his by less than two years. A good likeness of Dr. Procter appeared in the *American Scientist* for October, 1947, this being a sketch from life together with an interview, both by S. J. Woolf. This present notice is based partly on S. J. Woolf's account, on the obituary of Dr. Procter by Donald B. Prentice in the *American Scientist* for July 1951 and on the facts in the eighth edition of *American Men of Science*. He had no children.

Because of Dr. William Procter's accomplishments in entomology and other branches of biology, his conscientious discharge of his many administrative responsibilities, his understanding aid to our own and other organizations of kindred objectives, and the stimulating qualities which he contributed to any gathering in which he participated, the New York Entomological Society records its profound regret at the passing of this valued member from our midst.—H. B. W.

### THE NATURALISTS' DIRECTORY

The thirty-sixth edition of this directory was published in June, 1951. First published in 1878, it has appeared at two or three year intervals. The directory is useful in providing names and addresses and subjects of interest of naturalists. It also contains a list of Natural History Museums and Scientific Periodicals.

The Naturalists' Directory is published by Herman E. Cassino, Salem, Massachusetts and sells for \$3.00.—F. A. S.